يا الهي بهاء

ESSENCE OF THE BAHA'I FAITH

Lesson - 1

INTRODUCTION

This faith is also called as the ALIF of the Greatest Name and The Third Manifestation of the Greatest Name, soon to appear.

In the Bahai writings it is clearly mentioned that there would be three parts to the revelation of the faith. Many Bahais still wonder about this and are unable to give a satisfactory answer that what are these three parts of the revelation

"…*When the appointed hour, shall come, there shall suddenly appear that which will cause the limbs of mankind to quake. Then and only then will the Divine Standard be unfurled and the Nightingale of Paradise warble its melody.*"

(Bahaullah -Gleanings -p 118).

Many of the bahais mistakenly used to interpret this as the coming of the Holy Spirit which will awaken everybody and Cause of God will be established.

Please see the following article, written by Ruhiyyih Khanum, appeared in the May 1958 issue of the Baha'i News, No. 327 printed in America:
"The Guardian said to some of the pilgrims, during the last year and a half or two years, something very strange. He said that there are two Plans. The long-term Plan of Almighty God for mankind on this planet; that is the Plan that has the Prophets of God, the Adamic Cycle and all of the Great Manifestations of God, like Christ and Muhammad, Buddha, Zoroaster, and Moses and so on, bringing us to this day with the Bab and Baha'u'llah. This is the Mighty Plan of God, educating humanity and bringing the Kingdom of Heaven on earth on this planet. He said this is the Plan of God, it goes forward in mysterious ways, we do not always understand its workings. Then, he said, we have the Divine Plan, which is being carried forward by the Baha'is in the form as we know it, first the two Seven-Year Plans, and then this Ten-Year Plan -- the World Crusade which we are now enngaged upon and part of which has passed.

The Guardian said, who knows, maybe this great Plan of God will interfere in the other Plan.

Ruhiyyih Khanum wrote that she was mystified by this statement by Shoghi Effendi; apparently she believed, like most Baha'is do today, that the 1000 years mentioned

in the Kitab-i-Aqdas begin in 1852 or 1892, although no beginning date for the 1000 years is mentioned in the authoritative Writings. She wrote that she believed that this intervention by God must refer to World War II and/or the passing of Shoghi Effendi, -- although neither event interrupted the work of the Baha'i plans for more than a very short time, and World War II occurred prior to the passing of Shoghi Effendi.

It becomes clear, upon reading the words of Shoghi Effendi in his various writings, that he would never compare his death as being equal in importance to the coming of a Manifestation, and, indeed, he clearly stated that his station did not compare with that of Abdu'l'-Baha. And besides, he said the Great Plan of God was the coming of Manifestations to humanity, and thus there should not be any fixed, conditioned thinking about their understanding of the 1000 year prophecy, or when the 1000 years begin, and start to consider other prophecies and signs in the Teachings. When comparing his station to that of Abdu'l-Baha, Shoghi Effendi wrote: "No Guardian of the Faith...can ever claim to be the perfect exemplar of the teachings of Baha'u'llah or the stainless mirror that reflects His light...he remains essentially human and cannot, if he wishes to remain faithful to his trust, arrogate to himself, under any pretense whatsoever, the rights, the privileges and prerogatives which Baha'u'llah has chosen to confer upon His Son. In the light of this truth to pray to the Guardian of the Faith, to address him as lord and master, to designate him as his holiness, to seek his benediction, to celebrate his birthday, or to commemorate any event associated with his life would be tantamount to a departure from those established truths that are enshrined in our beloved Faith. The fact that the Guardian has been specifically endowed with such power as he may need to reveal the purport and disclose the implications of the utterances of Baha'u'llah and of Abdu'l-Baha does not necessarily confer upon him a station co-equal with those Whose words he is called upon to interpret. He can exercise that right and discharge this obligation and yet remain infinitely inferior to both of them in rank and different in nature." The World Order of Baha'u'llah by Shoghi Effendi, p. 151. Shoghi Effendi would be shocked by the very thought that anyone would compare the event of his death with the coming of a Manifestation in the Mighty Plan of God.

There was one crusader of truth who went in search of the truth and he firmly believed that there is a manifestation which would soon appear and then only the Cause of God will be established.

This crusader of truth is none other than **JOHN CARRE**, the only proponent of the **"Essence of the Bahai Faith".**

بسم الله

ESSENCE OF THE BAHA'I FAITH

In this series of lessons we shall take you through the correct beliefs and teachings of the Bahai Faith as taught by Bab and Bahaullah -exalted be their names and taken forward by Abdul Baha and Shoghi Effendi.

Questions:

1. There will be how many parts of the revelation?
2. Generally how have the Bahais interpreted the coming of the revelation?
3. Who is the only proponent of the "Essence of the Bahai Faith"?

يا بهاء الابهى

ESSENCE OF THE BAHA'I FAITH

Lesson 2

JOHN CARRE DISCUSSES WITH HAND OF CAUSE AND OTHER QUOTES

In 1958 , after the passing of Shoghi Effandi , John Carre met and discussed with the late hand of Cause Mr.Muhlschlegel while in Paris , France and he told him that he agreed that a new manifestation would soon appear .This was also clear from various discussions he had with others and his research from the writings , the details of which cannot be described in this brief document.

But , it would suffice to quote from the Haifa notes taken in the last year in Shoghi Effandi's life .

"*One evening the Guardian mentioned there had been 6000 years of prophetic revelation to announce the coming of Bahaullah and to prepare world for it-that there would be 500,000 years of revelation under His shadow.He stated that the world civilization will not be inaugurated before another revelation or prophet appears.*"
(Notes of Alice Dudley-1957)

Although most Bahai's know that this is the revelation of the greatest name , most may not know the implications of this in todays scenario.

In the book The Heavenly Table by Ishraq Khavari (Iran), Abdu'l-Baha is cited and He speaks of the first two Letters of the Greatest Name BHA' which were revealed in the Bab and Baha'u'llah: "Concerning the Name in the Hidden Words (i.e. #77 in the Persian section), the two Letters of which were revealed, that Name is the Most Great Name (BHA'). The purpose is the Blessed Beauty, and whatever is in our possession is the meaning of two Letters of the Most Great Name that is, B and H." Look up the word "Ha" in the glossary of the Kitab-i-Iqan as well as the last two pages of that book for confirmation of this statement.

In the following chapters we will discuss the prophecies and signs of the coming of the third Letter of the Greatest Name, the "A" or Alif, that Mr.John Carre has discovered through his research. Also mention will be made of some of the reasons why we need the last part of the Revelation of the Greatest Name for the establishment of the future Kingdom of God on earth.

Questions:

1. Who was the Hand of Cause with whom Mr.John Carre discussed regarding coming of the manifestation?
2. Where do we find that "world civilization will not be inaugurated before another revelation or prophet appears"?
3. In the greatest name BHA , what does each of the alphabets signify?

Lesson 3

THE APPOINTED INTERPRETER

In The World Order of Baha'u'llah, page 20, Shoghi Effendi writes of the lack of specific authority from Christ, giving any of His followers the sole right to interpret His Word, and the results of that missing authority.

"*...none did He specifically invest with sufficient authority to either interpret His Word, or to add to what He had not specifically enjoined...For this reason, in later generations, voices were raised in protest against the self-appointed Authority which arrogated to itself privileges and powers which did not emanate from the clear text of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and which constituted a grave departure from the spirit which that Gospel did inculcate...*"

Today the leaders of each of the Baha'i groups consider themselves to have the right to call anyone who disagrees with their interpretations of the Teachings, or their acts based on such interpretations, "violators". None of these leaders, including the UHJ as a body, can substantiate such claims from the explicit text of either the Will and Testament of Abdu'l-Baha or the Writings of Baha'u'llah. If such a situation continues, in the future there would be millions who would disagree with the interpretations of these leaders, quite willing and able to challenge their claims of authority. As a consequence those millions would be considered outcasts from the Baha'i communities. How can there be a World Order based on such an unstable foundation? The Hands called the Guardianship "Bada", meaning that God had changed the plans for His Cause, and the Guardianship was no longer necessary. But did He change His plans? In fact, as we noted earlier, the temporary termination of the Guardianship is essential for the appearance of the next Manifestation of the Revelation of the Greatest Name. In the opening quotation we see that Shoghi Effendi spoke of the Guardianship as being a sign of human maturity, and that it would last for the length of the Dispensation. Abdu'l-Baha stressed the importance of having an "authorized" or "appointed" interpreter of the Word, and as we have seen, at this time there is no such interpreter.

"The text of the Divine Book is this: If two souls quarrel and contend about a question of the Divine Questions, differing and disputing, both are wrong. The wisdom of this incontrovertible law of God is this: that between two souls from amongst the believers of God, no contention and dispute might arise; that they may speak with each other with infinite amity and love. Should there appear the least trace of controversy, they

must remain silent, and both parties must continue their discussions no longer, but ask the reality of the question from the Interpreter. This is the irrefutable command." Abdu'l-Baha cited in Baha'i World Faith, p. 428

According to Shoghi Effendi's interpretations, stated in his book Dispensation, any future UHJ must have a Guardian to interpret the Teachings, and tell the UHJ members when their legislation is opposed to the Writings of Baha'u'llah, and if they are exceeding their mandate. As you can see from the following statement by Baha'u'llah, interpretations of the Writings are manifold, and only an appointed interpreter can comprehend their meanings. So any future UHJ will need a Guardian as a member of that body. "Know assuredly that just as thou firmly believest that the Word of God, exalted be His glory, endureth for ever, thou must, likewise, believe with undoubting faith, that the meaning can never be exhausted. They who are its appointed interpreters, they whose hearts are the repositories of its secrets, are, however, the only ones who can comprehend its manifold wisdom." Baha'u'llah in Gleanings, p. 175

Despite this clear statement of Baha'u'llah that the meaning of the Word of God can never be exhausted, and that only the appointed interpreters can comprehend its meaning, the editors of the 1980 edition of Baha'u'llah and the New Era on page 285,inserted the statement:"Pure and inviolate, the revealed Word of Baha'u'llah, with its authorized interpretation, remains throughout the Dispensation the uncorrupted and incorruptable source of spiritual life to men," implying that very few interpretations in our possession from the time of Shoghi Effendi will suffice until the next Manifestation in 1000 years. Speaking of the importance of the Guardianship in the World Order of God's Cause, Shoghi Effendi, on page 148 of The World Order of Baha'u'llah (also in the separate edition called Dispensation which is part of that book) tells us that the Guardianship is indispensable. "Divorced from the institution of the Guardianship the World Order of Baha'u'llah would be mutilated and permanently deprived of that hereditary principle, which, as Abdu'l-Baha has written, has been invariably upheld by the Law of God...Without such an institution the integrity of the Faith would be imperiled, and the stability of the entire fabric would be gravely endangered. Its prestige would suffer, the means required to enable it to take a long, an uninterrupted view over a series of generations, would be completely lacking, and necessary guidance to define the sphere of legislative action of its elected representatives would be totally withdrawn."

Although in Dispensation Shoghi Effendi speaks of "twin institutions" he makes it abundantly clear in the following paragraphs that he does not mean identical twins,

rather that the two institutions are indispensable to one another, each having its own distinct functions. Neither institution can claim the functions of the other institution. No Baha'i should underestimate the vital importance of the Guardianship, the Appointed Interpreter, for the spiritual unity of humanity, and the success of any World Order. It is God's World Order, not ours, and it belongs to all of humanity, not to the Baha'is. The idea, held by many, that any one of the existing leaders or the UHJ can fulfill the functions of a Guardian, are seriously in error, and the very Words of God testify to this fact, as do current events within the Baha'i community. Today a serious problem exists, a problem that only God can resolve, and we ought not believe that God cannot intervene in human affairs whenever He wills, in order to establish HIS WORLD ORDER and the Kingdom of God on earth.

"What 'oppression' is more grievous than that a soul seeking the truth, and wishing to attain unto the knowledge of God, should know not where to go for it and from whom to seek it? For opinions have sorely differed, and the ways unto the attainment of God have multiplied. This 'oppression' is the essential feature of every Revelation. Unless it cometh to pass, the Sun of Truth will not be made manifest. For the break of the morn of divine guidance must needs follow the darkness of the night of error..." Baha'u'llah in Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 31

Questions:

1. Who has the right to interpret the divine words ?
2. Why is Guardianship important in the establishing the Kingdom of God on earth?

Lesson 4

REVELATION OF THE GREATEST NAME-NOT YET ENDED

In addition to the lack of a Guardian for the future World Order of God's Cause, a second indication that this Revelation of the Greatest Name is not yet complete is the fact that a vast number of the Writings of Baha'u'llah were deliberately destroyed because mankind was not ready for them at the time they were revealed. "As to those verses which He either dictated or wrote Himself, their number was no less remarkable than either the wealth of material they contained, or the diversity of subjects to which they referred. A vast, and indeed the greater proportion of these Writings were, alas, lost irretrievably to posterity. No less an authority than Mirza Aqa Jan, Baha'u'llah's amanuensis, affirms, as reported by Nabil, that by the express order of Baha'u'llah, hundreds of thousands of verses, mostly written by His own hand, were obliterated and cast into the river. 'Finding me reluctant to execute His orders,' Mirza Aqa Jan has related to Nabil, 'Baha'u'llah would reassure me saying:'None is to be found at this time worthy to hear these melodies.' Not once, or twice, but innumerable times, was I commanded to repeat this act.'" God Passes By, p. 138

In the following statements, Baha'u'llah indicates that the full extent of this Revelation of the Greatest Name remained concealed from us because the people still did not have the capacity to benefit or to understand these advanced teachings. "Know verily that the veil hiding Our countenance hath not been completely lifted. We have revealed Our Self to a degree corresponding to the capacity of the people of Our age. Should the Ancient Beauty be unveiled in the fullness of His glory mortal eyes would be blinded by the dazzling intensity of His revelation." Baha'u'llah cited in The World Order of Baha'u'llah, 1944 ed., page 116

Although Baha'u'llah could not, at the time of His Mission, reveal more than a limited number of Teachings, He did promise that the Day is approaching when the Revelation of the Greatest Name would be completely revealed. He prophesied that even if the nations or the rulers opposed the Promised One, He would remain unshaken. "The heights which, through the most gracious favor of God, mortal man can attain in this Day, are as yet unrevealed to his sight. The world of being hath never had, nor doth it yet possess the capacity for such a revelation. The Day, however, is approaching when the potentialities of so great a favor will, by virtue of His behest, be manifested

unto men. Though the forces of the nations be arrayed against Him, though the kings of the earth be leagued to undermine His Cause, the power of His might shall stand unshaken. He verily, speaketh the truth, and summoneth all mankind to the way of Him Who is the Incomparable, the All-Knowing." Baha'u'llah, Gleanings, p. 214

In 1992 one hundred years elapsed since the Ascension of Baha'u'llah, and the influence of the Word of God has had world-wide effects, causing vast changes in the ways people think and live. World-wide communications have been established, means of travel have been revolutionized, science has made incredible progress, and on the physical plane at least, the "oneness" of humanity is being realized. It is as if a vast nerve structure has been created throughout the world, ready for the coming of a truly spiritual humanity, responsive to the Word of God. Baha'u'llah spoke of the appearance of special, spiritually advanced people who would appear and be prepared by God in these time to serve His Cause, to awaken the body of a new humanity that is being prepared for birth by God. "There lay concealed within the Holy Veil, and prepared for the service of God, a company of His chosen ones who shall be manifested unto men, who shall aid His Cause, who shall be afraid of no one, though the entire human race rise up and war against them. These are the ones who, before the gaze of the dwellers on earth and the denizens of heaven, shall arise and, shouting aloud, acclaim the name of the Almighty, and summon the children of men to the path of God, the All-Glorious, the All-Praised." Baha'u'llah cited in The Advent of Divine Justice, p. 85

"The day is approaching when God will have, by an act of His Will, raised up a race of men the nature of which is inscrutable to all save God, the All-Powerful, the Self-Subsisting." Ibid, p. 85 "A race of men incomparable in character, shall be raised up which, with the feet of detachment, will tread under all who are in heaven and on earth, and will cast the sleeve of holiness over all that hath been created from water and clay." Ibid, p. 31

The question of when the next part of the Revelation of the Greatest Name will be made manifest in the world, is discussed in the subsequent lessons. Although most Baha'is today believe that they know when the next Manifestation will appear, that is, sometime a thousand years after 1852 or 1892, no beginning date for the thousand years is given in the authoritative Writings. One of the Teachings stressed in the Writings of Baha'u'llah is the truth that God does whatsoever He wills, which is not always what the people expect, or have arbitrarily decided. When the Babis questioned Baha'u'llah about His claims, saying that he had appeared about one thousand

years too soon, He replied:
"*For none knoweth the time of the Revelation except God. Whenever it appeareth, all must acknowledge the Point of Truth, and render thanks unto God.*" *Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 157*

Questions:

1. What are the indications that the revelation of the Greatest Name has not yet ended.
2. What has Bahaulah prophesised regarding coming of the revelation?
3. What do the Bahais generally say about the time of coming of the revelation?

Lesson 5

THE UNITY OF MANIFESTATIONS OF GOD

Baha'u'llah wrote "Beware, O believers in the Unity of God, lest ye be tempted to make any distinction between any of the Manifestations of His Cause, or to discriminate against the signs that have accompanied and proclaimed their Revelation...Be ye assured, moreover, that the works and acts of each and every one of these Manifestations of God, nay whatever pertaineth unto them, and whatsoever they may manifest in the future, are all ordained by God, and are a reflection of His Will and Purpose. Whoso maketh the slightest difference between their persons, their words, their messages, their acts and manners, hath indeed disbelieved in God, hath repudiated His signs, and betrayed the Cause of His Messengers." Baha'u'llah in Gleanings, pp. 59-60

In God Passes By, Shoghi Effendi says that the Revelation of Baha'u'llah will overshadow future Revelations for the next 500,000 years. This statement must be considered in relation to the above quotations of the Bab and Baha'u'llah. Taken literally this would indicate that future Revelations will be less than that revealed through Baha'u'llah, but this cannot be so. Every Manifestation manifests the Holy Spirit, that Ancient Beauty, and it is the same Holy Spirit. God cannot be overshadowed by God, the Holy Spirit is the same in every Revelation and cannot be overshadowed by Itself. Therefore, the intent is not the literal meaning. Consider carefully the following statement of the Bab, concerning future Revelations, which expresses the same principle of progressive Revelation taught by Baha'u'llah. "...each Manifestation is more perfect than the last and includes all preceding ones (Vahid III:13)...and each time the Divine Will returns with increased strength and fuller utterance (Vahid III:12)" "A new Manifestation comes as soon as the evolution of the human race has prepared men for it. (Vahid VI:13)" "...but only God knows when it will be (Vahid VII:10), Vahid III:15)" The Bab in the Persian Bayan, trans. by E.G. Browne

TITLES GIVEN TO THE MANIFESTATIONS OF THE GREATEST NAME IN PROPHECIES

In Muslim eschatology (study of last, or final things) a general sequence of events regarding the Last Day, is as follows. This "schedule" of events is repeated in the prophecies of Siyyid Kazim, one of the forerunners of the Bab and Baha'u'llah.

1. Appearance of antichrist (Karim Khan and Mirza Yahya)
2. Descent of Mahdi and Isa (the Bab and Baha'u'llah)
3. First blast of the trumpet (Revelation of the Bab, the "B" of the Greatest Name.)

4. Second blast of the trumpet (Revelation of Baha'u'llah, the "H" of the Greatest Name.)
5. Long interval, while people stand before God for judgement (period now reaching termination).
6. Judgement Day (Literally, the collapse of this world civilization. Figuratively, the coming of the Manifestation of the third Letter "A" of the Greatest Name.)
7. The intercession for the faithful few by Muhammad (the "A" of the Greatest Name, BHA')

In Muslim traditions (from Muhammad and Ali) the three Manifestations of the Greatest Name are given titles that indicate their particular part of the Message of the Revelation of the Greatest Name. The first to appear is named the Mahdi, which means guided or enlightened One, who took the name Bab (Gate) at the beginning of His Revelation, but later declared that He was the Qa'im, the Promised One of all religions. (The name Bab was then bestowed upon Mullah Husayn, who was first called the Bab'ul'Bab, or gate of the Gate). The Bab declared that He was the "B", the first Letter of the Greatest Name. The Bab stated: "Whatever is attributed to Me in this Paradise is exactly the same as those things attributed to Him Whom God will make manifest (i.e. Baha'u'llah). Will you not enter this Paradise?" Arabic Bayan

The second name is Isa, Who was to immediately follow the Qa'im. The name means the Christ Spirit, and indicates the powerful spiritual nature of the Revelation given through Baha'u'llah. Baha'u'llah also laid the foundations of the future World Order of the new age, and gave an indication of the structure of the future world government. He said He represented the "H" of the Greatest Name of God, BHA' In the Quran Muhammad said that the coming of Isa would be the sign of the coming of the Hour of Judgement for humanity. "And Jesus (i.e. Isa) will be a Sign for the coming of the Hour of Judgement; therefore have no doubt about the Hour but follow ye Me; this is a Straight Way." Quran, XLIII:61

After the time of Judgement (the Hour or the Appointed Hour), the third Letter of the Greatest Name is to appear, and His name in the traditions is Muhammad, or the Prophet. This is indicative of the role Muhammad played during His lifetime, as an organizer and lawgiver unparalleled in history (see Muhammad the Prophet by Maulana Muhammad Ali, Ripon Press, Lahore). Of course Muhammad also gave powerful spiritual teachings, and the third Letter, the Alif or "A" will give those teachings which Baha'u'llah destroyed because mankind was not yet ready to receive them.
In some Baha'i prayers the Names of the three Manifestations are given as the Most-

Exalted, the All-Glorious, and the All-Highest, which, of course, are Names of God, and the Letters of the Greatest Name manifest the All-Mighty

Questions:

1. What has Bab said regarding the future revelations?
2. What are the titles given to the manifestations of the greatest name in prophecies?
3. In some Bahai writing what are the names of the three manifestations?

Lesson 6

SYMBOLISM IN THE GREATEST NAME, IN THE WORDS FOR ONE THOUSAND AND FOR THE LETTER A, IN ARABIC.

"Let nothing grieve thee, O Land of Ta (Tihran), for God hath chosen thee to be the source of the joy of all mankind." Baha'u'llah, Gleanings, p. 110

In the Kitab-i-Aqdas Baha'u'llah mentions the numerical value of the Greatest Name (the letter "t" pronounced ta, has the Abjad value of nine): "Say: This is the hidden knowledge which never changes because it begins with al-ta, which indicates the treasured, manifest, well-fortified, and unapproachable Name." Elder and Miller translation, p. 31 (In the latest translation, publ. by the UHJ, p. 28, this is translated as follows:) "Say: This is that hidden knowledge which shall never change, since its beginning is with nine, the symbol that betokeneth the concealed and manifest, the inviolable and unapproachably exalted Name."

As you can see from the first quotation at the head of the page, Tihran is also designated by the number nine, because Baha'u'llah began His Mission there in 1852 while imprisoned. In the appendix there is an explanation of the use and significance of numbers and letters in the Holy Books. Here I will mention only some of the symbolic meanings of the Greatest Name BHA', and of the word ALF. As noted in Chapter I the Writings of Baha'u'llah are usually in Arabic, and the Kitab-i-Aqdas is in Arabic.

The numerical value of Arabic and Persian words in the Writings of the Bab and Baha'u'llah are calculated using the Abjad numbering system for the letters of the Arabic alphabet, and it is not applicable for transliterated words. In Arabic, vowels are often not shown in the word, as we will see. (See the book A Basic Baha'i Dictionary by Wendi Momen, publ. 1991 by G. Ronald, Oxford, p.6, or in Baha'i Glossary by Marzieh Gail, publ. 1957, Baha'i Publ. Trust, Wilmette, p.2) Using this system the numerical value of BHA' is nine because the "B" equals 2, the "H" equals 5, the "A" equals 1 and the "'" equals 1. There are three Letters in the Greatest Name, and in symbolism three is usually indicative of perfection (The Manifestation, the Holy Spirit and God). Three times three or nine, is the superlative of three, which indicates absolute perfection. The word BHA' is composed of three letters, indicating the three part Revelation, which is equal to nine when completed, or the perfection of the

Greatest Name. The Revelation of the Greatest Name will not be complete until the third Letter of the Greatest Name is revealed.

When the Bab appeared He stated that He represented the Letter "B" of the Greatest Name, the Gate to the two "Alifs" to follow Him. Alif (or Alf) is the word indicating the letter "A" with the Abjad value of "1" or unity, and in the following quotation it signifies the unity of the Manifestation and the Word of God. That is, two Manifestations of God are to follow the Bab. The Bab refers to Himself as "the Ba (i.e. "B") which permeates the water of the Letters, and the point which stands at the Gate of the two Alifs." The Bab, cited in Selections from the Writings of E.G. Browne, by M. Moman, p. 215

When Baha'u'llah appeared He indicated that He represented the Letter "H" of the Greatest Name (see p. 261 of the 1954 edition of the Kitab-i-Iqan, as well as the footnote on page 56 of the 1952 edition of The Four Valleys and the Seven Valleys, both publ. by Baha'i Publ. Trust, Wilmette) You will also recall that at the end of the Kitab-i-Iqan Baha'u'llah also refers to Himself as both the "B" and the "H" (the Ba and the Ha) of the Greatest Name. This is because every Manifestation of God represents the same Holy Spirit as all the Manifestations Who have gone before. It also indicates, when He says that He is "none other except the Primal Point" that His Revelation is the same Revelation of the Greatest Name as that inaugurated by the Bab. "He Who now voiceth the Word of God is none other except the Primal Point Who hath once again been made manifest." "He is the same as the One Who appeared in the year sixty (1260 A.H.)." Baha'u'llah cited in The World Order of Baha'u'llah, p. 139, 1944 ed.

In Lesson I we saw that Abdu'l-Baha said that only two Letters of the Greatest Name had been revealed, in the first two parts of this Revelation. "Concerning the Name in the Hidden Words (i.e. #77 in the Persian section), the two Letters of which were revealed, that Name is the Most Great Name (BHA'). The purpose is the Blessed Beauty, and whatever is in our possession is the meaning of two Letters of the Most Great Name; that is, B and H." When the third Letter of the Greatest Name, the Alif or "A", appears, the three part Revelation from God will be completed. That there are three Letters of the one Name of God indicates, symbolically, that these are not independent Revelations, but parts of one great Revelation from one God, one Cause of God. In each succeeding Manifestation all the Letters and perfections of the previous Manifestations are present and manifest.

Questions:

1. How are the numerical value of Arabic and Persian words in the Writings of the Bab and Baha'u'llah calculated?
2. As per this system what is the value of the greatest name BHA'?What is its breakup?
3. What do each of the individual letters of BHA'indicate?

يا بهاء الابهى

ESSENCE OF THE BAHA'I FAITH

Lesson 7

"SIGNS" OF THE COMING MANIFESTATION IN THE VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE HEAVENS

With regard to the spiritual influence of the stars, though this influence of stars in the human world may appear strange, still, if you reflect deeply upon this subject, you will not be so much surprised at it...I mean that this limitless universe is like the human body, all the members of which are connected and linked with one another with the greatest strength...the parts of this infinite universe have their members and elements connected with one another, and influence one another spiritually and materially." Abdu'l-Baha in Some Answered Questions, LXIX

Christians often speak of the "star" which appeared in the heavens prior to the appearance of His Holiness Jesus Christ. Never we recall ever hearing any Baha'i speak of the signs in the visible heaven that heralded the appearances of the Bab and Baha'u'llah , although one did speak of a comet, which is not an unusual event, and as you see in the quotations below, Baha'u'llah speaks of a "star" being discovered. Three major planets in the solar system were discovered during this time, with a most astonishing relationship, as we shall see. In the Kitab-i-Iqan (pp. 61-66) Baha'u'llah discusses at length the question of "stars" appearing in the visible and invisible heavens prior to the coming of a Manifestation.

"And now, concerning His words:'And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in the heaven,' by these words is meant that when the sun of the heavenly teachings hath been eclipsed, the stars of the divinely-established laws have fallen, and the moon of true knowledge -- the educator of mankind -- hath been obscured: when the standards of guidance and felicity have been reversed, and the morn of truth and righteousness hath sunk in night, then shall the sign of the Son of man appear in heaven. By 'heaven is meant the visible heaven, inasmuch as when the hour draweth nigh on which the Day-Star of the heaven of justice shall be made manifest, and the Ark of divine guidance shall sail upon the sea of glory, a star shall appear in the heaven, heralding unto its people the advent of that most great light. In like manner, in the invisible heaven a star shall be made manifest who, unto the peoples of the earth, shall act as a harbinger of the break of that true and exalted Morn. These twofold signs, in the visible and invisible heaven, have announced the revelation of each of the Prophets of God, as is commonly believed."

يا بهاء الابهى

ESSENCE OF THE BAHA'I FAITH

"Among the Prophets was Abraham, the Friend of God. Ere He manifested Himself, Nimrod dreamed a dream. Thereupon, he summoned the soothsayers, who informed him of a star in the heaven. Likewise there appeared a herald who announced throughout the land the coming of Abraham."

"Likewise, ere the beauty of Muhammad was unveiled, the signs of the visible heaven were made manifest. As to the signs of the invisible heaven, there appeared four men who successively announced unto the people the joyful tidings of the divine Luminary..."

"And now concerning this wondrous and most exalted Cause. Know thou verily that many an astronomer hath announced the appearance of its star in the visible heaven. Likewise, there appeared on earth Ahmad and Kazim, those twin resplendent lights -- may God sanctify their resting place!"

"From all that We have stated it hath become clear and manifest that before the revelation of each of the Mirrors reflecting the divine Essence, the signs heralding their advent must needs be revealed in the visible heaven as well as in the invisible , wherein is the seat of the sun of knowledge, of the moon of wisdom, and of the stars of understanding and utterance. The signs of the invisible heaven must needs be revealed in the person of that perfect man who, before each Manifestation appeareth, educateth, and prepareth the souls of men for the advent of the divine Luminary, the Light of the unity of God amongst men." Baha'u'llah in the Kitab-i-Iqan, pp. 61-66

Carl Jung, the psychologist, observed that in creation there is a certain "synchronicity" apparent in events, and this is especially true of the signs in the visible heaven that occur at the time of the Manifestations of God. As Abdu'l-Baha said, this is because the entire universe is interrelated, physically and spiritually, it is the natural order of God's creation.

Three new planets were discovered in the last 200 years, and these planets have a special and a most extraordinary relationship. Before the coming of the Blessed Bab, in 1781, 63 years (7 x 9) before His Declaration, the planet Uranus was discovered. Before the advent of Baha'u'llah, the planet Neptune was discovered in 1846, 6 years before He began His Mission in 1852, and 19 years before His public announcement in Adrianople. In 1930, the ninth planet of the solar system, Pluto, the planet of the final Manifestation of the Revelation of the Greatest Name, was discovered. Although nothing in creation seems to have "exact" numerical relationships according to our human system of mathematics, the numerical relationships of these

three planets are almost exact even by that system. As you will see, the numbers 9 and 19 which are apparently so important in God's Cause, come up repeatedly in these relationships between the three planets.

URANUS, the planet of the Bab, is 19 astronomical units from the Sun (an astronomical unit is the distance of the Earth from the Sun). URANUS revolves around the Sun every 9.15 x 9.15 years.

NEPTUNE, the planet of Baha'u'llah, and URANUS go into conjunction every 9 x 19 years (171 years), and the last conjunction occurred in 1993 (which is composed of the numbers 19, 9 and 3 which are significant in this Cause). This conjunction began on the 100th anniversary of the Ascension of Baha'u'llah (May 1992) and reached full conjunction in January 1993.

PLUTO, the planet of the third Letter of the Greatest name, is the ninth planet of our solar system (as far as we know at present). As we have seen, nine is symbolic of Divine perfection and the completion of the Greatest Name. The orbit of PLUTO is 13 x 19 years. The 1-2-3 relationship of the orbits of these three planets is unique in our solar system. The orbit of URANUS takes about 84 years to complete, that of NEPTUNE takes twice that time, and the orbit of PLUTO takes three times as long.

The NEPTUNE-PLUTO conjunctions occur every 492 years, (about 26x19) and the last conjunction occurred in 1892, the year of the Ascension of Baha'u'llah

PLUTO went inside the orbit of NEPTUNE in 1979 and will remain there until the completion of 19 years, having reached its closest point to the Sun in 1989, and then re-emerging from inside the orbit of NEPTUNE just 9 years later! PLUTO was at its aphelion in 1865, which is the time (according to E.G. Browne) of the first public declaration of the Mission of Baha'u'llah in Adrianople.

The prophecy of Siyyid Kazim (from the Traditions of Muhammad and the Imams) which foretells the coming of the Manifestations of the Bab and Baha'u'llah, tells us that after Baha'u'llah (Husayn in the prophecy), comes the time of Ali. Since Ali was the successor of Muhammad, this refers to the time of Abdu'l-Baha. Then, after the time of Abdu'l-Baha, it speaks of a time of 40 "nights". In spiritual terms, the word "night" indicates a time without a Sign of God being known to mankind on earth, and since this did not occur until the passing of Shoghi Effendi, that 40 year period begins in 1957, and ends in 1997, Or the 40 year period could begin in 1963 when the Baha'i leaders fromed their verion of the Universal House of Justice which is not in accord with the requirements stated in the Will and Testament of Abdu'l-Baha. In

His prophecies Abdu'l-Baha speaks of 1963 as the time when humanity would begin to suffer afflictions and miseries, and also that at that time knowledge of the Baha'i Faith would have encompassed the world. (We see now, in the year 2005, that the first date of 1997-8 was incorrect at least as far as any public knowledge of the Manifestation is concerned, although we must remember that Baha'u'llah knew of His Mission 11 years prior to the date (1863) when He publicly announced His Mission. In this year of 2005 we shall see if this is the time of the end of this world civilization, as all signs seem to indicate.

"Oppression will envelop the world, and following a universal convulsion the sun of justice will rise from the horizon of the unseen realm." Baha'u'llah cited in Promised Day is Come, p. 121, '76 India ed.

"...when the appointed hour is come, there shall suddenly appear that which will cause the limbs of mankind to quake. Then and only then will the Divine Standard be unfurled, and the Nightingale of Paradise warble its melody." Baha'u'llah in Gleanings, p. 118

It is obvious from these two prophecies that the Manifestation promised will announce the Revelation only after that final war and cataclysm (See the final lesson in this series)

Questions

1. Which are the planets which were discovered in the last 200 years?
2. To whom are the three new planets related and how?
3. Which is the planet related to the third Letter of the Greatest name?

Lesson 8

THE TIME WHEN THE THIRD MANIFESTATION WILL PRIVATELY OR PUBLICLY ANNOUNCE HIS MISSION.

Baha'u'llah and all previous Manifestations have informed us that only God knows when His Manifestations will appear. Yet, in each instance He has given us prophetic statements indicating when the Revelations will begin, written in a language that most people fail to understand. The clearest prophecies giving a date for the appearance of a Manifestation were those foretelling the coming of the Bab, and yet most people were veiled from their significance, and failed to accept the Bab when He declared His Mission. In this Lesson , we have brought together some of the prophecies relating to the time of the appearance of the third Letter of the Greatest Name, the All-Highest

At the end of the previous Lesson we mentioned two of the prophecies which indicate an approximate time for the appearance of the Manifestation of God. They are:

"The winds of despair are, alas, blowing from every direction, and the strife that divides and afflicts the human race is daily increasing. The signs of impending convulsions and chaos can now be discerned, inasmuch as the prevailing order appears to be lamentably defective....Such shall be its plight that to disclose it now would not be meet and seemly...Soon, will the present-day order be rolled up, and a new one spread out in its stead...After a time all the governments on earth will change...Oppression will envelop the world. And following a universal convulsion, the sun of justice will rise from the horizon of the unseen realm." Baha'u'llah cited in The Promised Day is Come, p. 121, India edition.

"The world is in travail, and its agitation waxeth day by day. Its face is turned towards waywardness and unbelief. Such shall be its plight, that to disclose it now would not be meet and seemly. Its perversity will long continue. and when the appointed hour is come, there shall suddenly appear that which shall cause the limbs of mankind to quake. Then, and only then, will the Divine Standard be unfurled, and the Nightingale of Paradise warble its melody." Gleanings, p. 118

In these prophecies the terms "sun of justice" and "Nightingale of Paradise" are references to the Manifestations of God (See, for example, The Tablet of Ahmad). The term "unseen realm" is a reference to the hidden realm of the Holy Spirit. The

term "Divine Standard" is a reference to the Word of God, which is the standard by which all things are judged. (Note:In Arabic there are no "upper case" and "lower case" letters, so when translated into English they are sometimes not indicated, depending on the translator and when the translation was made).

Many Baha'is, as well as the generality of mankind, have failed to realize that world peace and ongoing international commerce are not the solution to the problems of mankind. We were created to know and to love God, this is the entire purpose of our existence. Our material creations, our knowledge, our new discoveries in science, etc. are given to us by God so that we may attain the true goal of life, nearness to Him. In a world of crass materialism we have lost sight of the purpose of life, and so humanity rushes towards its self-inflicted judgement day and time of purification. "After this date (i.e.1963) great commotion and upheaval will embrace the whole earth. To make a long story short, terrible wars, and disastrous earthquakes will take place and all kinds of miseries will encompass mankind to such an extent that in certain parts of the world historical monuments will be completely destroyed. Briefly, the population of the earth will The final years before the event that will "cause the limbs of mankind to quake" are now upon us, and we witness a growing avalanche of catastrophic events occurring around the world. One of the signs apparent today is the racial, religious, national and ethnic divisions that are growing worse month by month, and which are spreading around the world. "Great, great is the Cause! The hour is approaching when the most great convulsion will have appeared. I swear by Him Who is the Truth! ; it shall cause separation to afflict everyone, even those who circle around Me." Baha'u'llah cited in Advent of Divine Justice, p. 81

These events signal the end of this world civilization, and the beginning of the new age. Only when this old order of things is destroyed will it be possible to build anew, to establish the Kingdom of God on earth. Many living during these times of the disintegration of this world civilization, and those born since World War II, have become so inured to the bad news and the calamities, that they accept it as normal, the way it has always been.

"Behold, famine and pestilence and distress and anguish are sent as scourges to correct men, but in spite of all these things, they will not turn from their wickedness, or ever remember the scourge." Esdras II, 16:20

THE PROPHECY OF THE SEVENTH ANGEL

In Some Answered Questions Abdu'l-Baha explains the significance of the prophecy of the coming of the Seventh Angel mentioned in Revelation. This was explained to

Laura Clifford Barney many years after the Ascension of Baha'u'llah, and Abdu'l-Baha speaks entirely in the future tense, of the Manifestation who will appear. First He describes the three Woes as the coming of Muhammad, the Bab and Baha'u'llah, and then He switches to the future tense to describe the Manifestation to appear after the three Woes.

"The seventh angel is a man qualified with heavenly attributes, who will arise with heavenly qualities and character. Voices will be raised, so that the appearance of the Divine Manifestation will be proclaimed and diffused. In the day of the manifestation of the Lord of Hosts, and at the epoch of the divine cycle of the Omnipotent which is promised and mentioned in all the books and writings of the Prophets -- in that day of God, the Spiritual and Divine Kingdom will be established, and the world will be renewed; a new spirit will be breathed into the body of creation, the season of the divine spring will come, the clouds of mercy will rain, the sun of reality will shine, the life-giving breeze will blow, the world of humanity will wear a new garment, the surface of the earth will be a sublime paradise; mankind will be educated, wars, disputes, quarrels and malignity will disappear, and truthfulness, righteousness, honesty, and the worship of God will rule for evermore; meaning that the Spiritual and Everlasting Kingdom will be established. Such is the day of God. For all the days which have come and gone were the days of Abraham, Moses and Christ, or of the other Prophets; but this day is the day of God, for the Sun of Reality will arise in it with the utmost warmth and splendor. Some Answered Questions, Chap. 11 Every Manifestation is a "man endowed with heavenly qualities", as Abdu'l-Baha explains in Some Answered Questions (Chap. 39). You will note that Abdu'l-Baha speaks of the Day of God, and this is because all Revelations are from God, and all are parts of God's Cause, given through one Holy Spirit. In that Day which is just ahead, people will no longer worship the personalities of the Manifestations (as we are warned against in the Kitab-i-Aqdas), but realize the meaning of Divine Unity, and see that it is God speaking, and guiding humanity through His Chosen Ones. Then they will speak of "God's Cause" for all mankind.

Questions

1. Mention some of the prophecies about the Time When The Third Manifestation will appear.
2. What has Abdul Baha mentioned regarding the prophecy of the Seventh Angel?

Lesson 9

PROPHECIES OF THE PLACE OF THE APPEARANCE OF THE MANIFESTATION OF THE THIRD LETTER.

"If the sun arises in the west, it would still be the same sun; one must not withdraw from it on account of its rising place nor consider the west to be always the place of sunset." Abdu'l-Baha in Some Answered Questions, Chap. 14

The precise geographical location where a Manifestation will appear is never revealed, except perhaps in veiled language, as in the case of Jesus Christ, or where the general area is indicated as in the time of Muhammad. Those who sincerely believe must search for the Manifestation at the time He is to appear, and this in itself is a test of the sincerity of seekers. Those who sought the Bab found Him through prayer, fasting, searching and in some cases through dreams and visions.The situation is different with the appearance of every Manifestation, and the tests vary, as discussed in previous chapters. The prophecies we know of indicate that the Manifestation of the third Letter of the Greatest Name will reveal Himself in the West, specifically in America.

"Unveil thy face, O beauty of the Lord, that the Sun may arise in the West..." Baha'u'llah, cited in Haifa Notes of May Maxwell.

Issue forth from your cities, O peoples of the West and aid your God ere the Day when the Lord of mercy shall come down unto you in the shadow of the clouds..." The Bab in Selections from the Writings of the Bab, p. 56

"They lift up their voices, they sing for joy; over the majesty of the Lord they shout from the West. Therefore in the East give glory to the Lord; in the coastlines of the sea, to the name of the Lord, the God of Israel..." Isaiah 24:14-15 Revised Standard Edition of the Bible by Nelson and Sons. See also the New English Bible

Abdu'l-Baha made many prophecies about the spiritual future of America. In one of them He infers that the throne of the Kingdom of God will be established in America. These prophecies refer to the future, not to the spiritual condition of the believers at this time, but to a "new race" of spiritual people who will serve the Cause of God. "This American nation is equipped and empowered to accomplish that which will adorn the pages of history, to become the envy of the world, and be blest in both the

East and the West for the triumph of its people." Abdu'l-Baha cited in God Passes By, p. 254

"Your mission is unspeakably glorious. Should success crown your enterprise, America will assuredly evolve into a center from which waves of spiritual power will emanate, and the throne of the Kingdom of God, will in the plenitude of its majesty and glory, be firmly established." Ibid "The American continent giveth signs and evidences of very great advancement. Its future is even more promising, for its influence and illumination are far reaching. It will lead all nations spiritually." Ibid "May the inhabitants of this country...rise from their present material attainment to such heights that heavenly illumination may stream from this center to all the peoples of the world." Ibid

"The East hath verily been illumined with the light of the Kingdom. Ere long will this same light shed a still greater illumination upon the West. Then will the hearts of its people be vivified through the potency of the teachings of God and their souls be set aglow with the undying fire of His love." Abdu'l-Baha cited in The World Order of Baha'u'llah, p. 79 In one of these Tablets, addressed to the believers in the north Eastern states, these weighty and highly significant words are recorded: "All countries, and all cities and villages are on an equal footing... However, the dweller confereth honor upon the dwelling, some of the countries achieve distinction, and attain a preeminent position. For instance, notwithstanding that some of the countries of Europe and of America are distinguished by, and surpass other countries in, the salubrity of their climate, the wholesomeness of their water, and the charm of their mountains, plains and prairies, yet Palestine became the glory of all nations inasmuch as all the Holy and divine Manifestations from the time of Abraham until the appearance of the seal of the Prophets (Muhammad), have lived in, or migrated to, or traveled through, that country. Likewise, Mecca and Medina have achieved illimitable glory, as the light of Prophethood shone forth therein. For this reason Palestine and Hijaz have been distinguished from all other countries. Likewise, " is His remarkable disclosure, "the continent of America, is, in the eyes of the true God, the land wherein the splendors of His light shall be revealed, where the mysteries of His Faith shall be unveiled.". Abdu'l-Baha cited by Shoghi Effendi in Challenging Requirements of the Present Hour, pp. 27-28

The foregoing quotations indicate that the next Manifestation of God will appear in the United States of America. It is believed that that the Chosen One will begin His Mission in the Central Mountain states, along the Rocky Mountain chain, possibly near Santa Fe. Abdu'l-Baha indicated to believers when He came to America, that

this central area would be the safest place when the cataclysm occurs. Those few believers who have sanctified their souls and who submit wholly to the Will of God, will be guided and sustained by God in their search. The influence of the Manifestation on these believers will cause a complete transformation of their souls, as described by Abdu'l-Baha.

"These shall labor ceaselessly by day and by night, shall heed neither trial nor woe, shall suffer no respite in their efforts, shall seek no repose, shall disregard all ease and comfort, and, detached and unsullied, shall consecrate every fleeting moment of their life to the diffusion of the divine fragrance and the exaltation of God's holy Word. Their faces will radiate heavenly gladness, and their hearts be filled with joy. Their souls will be inspired, and their foundation stand secure. They shall scatter in the world, and travel throughout all regions. They shall raise their voices in every assembly, and adorn and revive every gathering. They shall speak in every tongue, and interpret every hidden meaning. They shall reveal the mysteries of the Kingdom, and manifest unto every one the signs of God. They shall burn brightly even as a candle in the heart of every assembly, and beam forth as a star upon every horizon. The gentle breeze wafted from the garden of their hearts shall perfume and revive the souls of men, and the revelation of their minds, even as showers, reinvigorate the peoples and nations of the world." Abdu'l-Baha cited in Baha'i World Faith, p. 35

So , let us all with full certainty and belief await the appearance of the Manifestation of the third letter of the Greatest Name and live to see the Glorious Day.

Questions

1. What are the prophecies regarding the Sun appearing from the West?
2. As per the clear prophecies which are available what will be the likely place of the manifestation of the third letter of the greatest name.